WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automated medical diagnosis reporting system comprising:

a patient demographic component for maintaining patient records;

a first selection means for selecting a patient record for display;

a medical procedure component for maintaining medical procedure records;

a personnel component for maintaining medical personnel records;

a first assignment means for assigning at least one said medical procedure record to said selected patient record;

a second assignment means for assigning at least one said personnel record to each said medical procedure record;

a display component for displaying at least said selected patient record and each said assigned medical procedure record;

an image capture component for the retrieval of image data;

a third assignment means for assigning said image data to at least one said medical procedure record;

an image display component for displaying said image data; and

a diagnosis component for associating diagnostic information with at least one said medical procedure record.

2. The automated medical diagnosis reporting system of Claim 1, said diagnosis component further comprising:

a diagnosis display field for displaying said diagnostic information;

a catalog of standard diagnoses;

a second selection means to allow the selection of at least one said diagnosis from said catalog of standard diagnoses;

10   a first insertion means for inserting said selected diagnosis into said diagnosis display field;

a dictation component to allow the entry of voice data;

a speech recognition component for translating

15   said voice data into textual dictated data;

a second insertion means for inserting dictated textual data into said diagnosis display field;

access means for accessing an external source of medical information;

20   an external capture component for the retrieval of external textual data from said external source of medical information;

a third insertion means for inserting external textual data into said diagnosis display field; and

25   a word processing component for editing textual data in said diagnosis display field.

3.   The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a reporting component for producing reports to include said diagnostic information, said image data,

5   and information from said patient records, said personnel records, and said medical procedure records; and

a transmission component for transmitting said reports.

4.   The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 3, where said transmission component transmits by facsimile.

5.   The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 3, where said transmission component transmits using e-mail.

6. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 2, wherein said second selection means allows selection of said standard diagnosis by body part.

7. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 2, wherein said second selection means allows selection of said standard diagnosis by medical condition.

8. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 2, further comprising a standard diagnosis entry component allowing textual entry of a customized diagnosis into said catalog of standard diagnoses.

9. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 8, wherein said standard diagnosis entry component allows insertion of said external textual data retrieved using said access means into said catalog of standard diagnoses.

10. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 8, wherein said standard diagnosis entry component allows insertion of said diagnosis display field into said catalog of standard diagnosis.

11. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 1, further comprising a security component to restrict access to said patient records, said personnel records, said medical procedure records, and said diagnostic information.

12. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 1, each said medical procedure record having a status field.

13. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 12, further comprising:

means for editing said status field to indicate the status of said medical procedure records; and

an update component for updating said edited status field for each said displayed medical procedure record.

14. An automated medical diagnosis reporting system comprising:

a records database component for maintaining patient records;

5   a diagnosis component for maintaining a catalog of standard diagnoses;

an image capture component for the retrieval of image data;

a first selection means for selecting at least

10   one of said patient records for display;

a second selection means for selecting at least one said standard diagnosis for display as a selected medical diagnosis simultaneously with said patient record;

15   a third selection means for selecting said image data for display;

an image display component for the display of said image data simultaneously with said patient record and said selected medical diagnosis;

20   a speech recognition component for translating dictated voice data into textual data;

dictation display means for displaying said dictated data;

a first insertion means for inserting said

25   dictated data into said selected medical diagnosis;

word processing means for editing said selected medical diagnosis;

a reporting component for formatting reports combining said patient records, said selected

30   diagnosis, and said image data; and

a transmission component for transmitting said reports.

15. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 14, further comprising:

access means for accessing an external source of medical information;

5   an external capture component for the retrieval of external textual data from said external source of medical information; and

a second insertion means for inserting said external textual data into said selected medical

10   diagnosis.

16. An automated medical diagnosis reporting system comprising:

a records database component for maintaining patient records;

5   a diagnosis component for maintaining a catalog of standard diagnoses;

an image capture component for the retrieval of image data;

a first selection means for selecting at least

10   one of said patient records for display;

a second selection means for selecting at least one said standard diagnosis for display as a selected medical diagnosis simultaneously with said patient record;

15   a third selection means for selecting said image data for display;

an image display component for the display of said image data simultaneously with said patient record and said medical diagnosis;

20   access means for accessing an external source of medical information;

an external capture component for the retrieval of external textual data from said external source of medical information;

25   a first insertion means for inserting said external textual data into said selected medical diagnosis;

word processing means for editing said selected diagnosis;

30   a reporting component for formatting reports combining said patient records, said selected diagnosis, and said image data; and

a transmission component for transmitting said reports.

17. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 16, further comprising:

a speech recognition component for translating dictated voice data into textual data;

5   dictation display means for displaying said dictated data; and

a second insertion means for inserting said dictated data into said selected medical diagnosis.

18. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 16, wherein said external source of medical information is a compact disc reader.

19. The diagnosis reporting system of Claim 16, wherein said external source of medical information is the Internet.

20. An automated method of reporting a medical diagnosis comprising the steps of:

entering patient demographic data;

entering information on medical personnel;

5   entering examination information associated with said patient data;

entering orders for procedures made by said medical personnel and associated with said patient data and said examination information;

10   displaying said patient data and information about said procedures on a monitor screen for viewing by a physician;

retrieving and display imaging data associated with said procedures;

15   displaying a menu to allow a selection of a standard diagnosis from a catalog by said physician;

            retrieving a diagnosis from said catalog using said menu selection;

            editing said diagnosis using dictation;

20   formatting a report including said patient data, said imaging data, and said edited diagnosis; and

            transmitting said report.

21. The method of reporting a medical diagnosis of Claim 20, wherein said menu lists said standard diagnoses by body part.

22. The method of reporting a medical diagnosis of Claim 20, wherein said menu lists said standard diagnoses by medical condition.

23. The method of reporting a medical diagnosis of Claim 20, further comprising the step of saving the edited diagnosis in said catalog.

24. The method of reporting a medical diagnosis of Claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

            accessing an external source of medical information;

5   retrieving information from said external source; and

            editing said diagnosis using said external information.

25. The method of reporting a medical diagnosis of Claim 24, further comprising the step of saving the edited diagnosis in said catalog.